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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, comprising:
polymerizing tetrafluoroethylene in an aqueous medium in the presence of a dispersant, a stabilizer and a polymerization initiator;
wherein the polymerization initiator is a redox polymerization initiator comprising a halogen acid salt YXO_3 , a sulfite Z_2SO_3 , potassium bromate/ammonium sulfite;
~~wherein X is a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom, Y is a hydrogen atom, ammonium, an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal, and Z is ammonium, an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal.~~

2.(Currently Amended) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein both the halogen acid salt potassium bromate and the ammonium sulfite of the redox polymerization initiator are added to the polymerization system simultaneously, or either the halogen acid salt potassium bromate or the ammonium sulfite is added preliminarily and the other is added intermittently or continuously during the polymerization.

3. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~halogen acid salt~~ potassium bromate is preliminarily added to the polymerization system, and the ammonium sulfite is intermittently or continuously added during the polymerization.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 5-1, wherein potassium bromate is preliminarily added to the polymerization system, and ammonium sulfite is intermittently or continuously added during the polymerization.

7. (Original) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymerization initiator is used in an amount of from 1 to 600 ppm, respectively, based on the mass of water.

8. (Original) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymerization initiator is used in an amount of from 1 to 300 ppm, respectively, based on the mass of water.

9. (Original) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymerization initiator is used in an amount of from 1 to 100 ppm, respectively, based on the mass of water.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the dispersion comprises a fluorocarbon surfactant.

11. (Original) The process for producing a tetrafluoroethylene polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is paraffin wax.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein a polymerization temperature is from 50 to 120 °C.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein a polymerization pressure is from 0.5 to 4.0 MPa.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein said fluorocarbon surfactant is a perfluorocarbon surfactant.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of said dispersant is from 250 to 5,000 ppm, based on the mass of water of said aqueous medium.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 11, wherein an amount of said paraffin wax is from 0.1 to 12 mass%, based on the mass of water of said aqueous medium.

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said polymerizing is carried out until a concentration of tetrafluoroethylene dispersed particles in said aqueous medium is from 15 to 40 mass%.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said polymerizing is carried out under an acidic condition.

19. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said tetrafluoroethylene is polymerized alone or together with a comonomer.

20. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 19, wherein an amount of said comonomer is at most 1 mass%.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Claim 5 as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-3 and 6-20 will now be active in this application.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hu for his helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on November 17, 2003. It was discussed to present data on how the polymerization solution including the initiators and the acid changes over time, in other words whether bisulfite is produced after a certain period of time in the solution. Furthermore, if the solution indeed does not have bisulfite ions even after a certain period of time he would like to see if a polymer can be produced and what the yield of the polymerization is.